

promoted across our new Nation in the 17th century and championed by Roger Williams.

In 1790, in a letter reassuring the members of the Hebrew congregation of their right to the free exercise of religion, George Washington famously declared the values of our Nation at its start, pledging that the United States would give “to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance.”

This weekend, it was my honor to attend the rededication of the Touro Synagogue, which remains a testament to the enduring freedoms of our Nation and the tradition of religious freedom that began in my home State and that is now deeply embedded in the American experience.

#### IRAN

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, on November 20, during critical negotiations in Geneva about Tehran’s nuclear program, Iran’s supreme leader tweeted this disturbing statement: “Israel is the sinister, unclean rabid dog of the region.” That same day, he added, The United States and Israel are a “threat to the world” and “enemies” that “should be resisted.”

This is the Iranian regime we are dealing with. They have ignored diplomatic efforts for years, and they cannot be trusted. An interim deal might seem like good news, but it does not make our Nation or our allies in the Middle East safer, especially when Iran claims the agreement is a victory over the great aggressor—the West.

This rhetoric leaves me skeptical that any progress has been made, and I encourage our leaders and international partners to take the necessary measures to halt Iran’s nuclear program, not only for our own security, but that of our allies and democracies around the world.

#### EQUALITY FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a historic week. On Sunday, we celebrated Rosa Parks Day; Thursday, we observed the start of the Montgomery bus boycott; and Friday, we commemorate the 148th anniversary of the Thirteenth Amendment, which ended slavery.

As we reflect on these historic events, we see how far our Nation has come in advancing equality for all Americans. However, recent actions like the Supreme Court’s decision to gut the Voting Rights Act remind us that we have much more work ahead.

Although I dream of a day that the Voting Rights Act is unnecessary, the truth is that voter discrimination and suppression live on today as ugly leg-

acies of our past. In the past few years, many States have introduced legislation that would restrict access to a voting booth. These discriminatory actions prove that the protections in the Voting Rights Act are still necessities in our world today.

So this week, as we remember the struggles and sacrifices made to ensure basic rights for all Americans, I urge my colleagues to continue fighting to ensure that no American is denied their right to vote.

#### SAGE GROUSE

(Mr. TIPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, the proposed Endangered Species Act for the Gunnison Sage-Grouse and the Greater Sage-Grouse will impact millions of acres in Colorado and hinder existing conservation efforts. It will put private lands off-limits to most use and development, including agricultural production, without providing any compensation. It will kill jobs, devastate communities, and disrupt effective species preservation efforts currently under way. It won’t, however, more effectively preserve the grass.

In my district, plans at the local level are under way to effectively preserve the species. Because they take into account the unique geography and environment of the region, these efforts are seeing success.

Interior Department bureaucrats have yet to provide measurable species preservation goals so that State and local officials can meet them. Local conservation efforts are all too often disrupted by Federal attempts to implement blanket plans. One-size-fits-all plans create endless litigation that ties up resources that could be used for preservation.

If the true goal is species preservation, then I hope Secretary Jewell will come to Colorado and see firsthand the effective work being done to preserve the sage grouse and provide measurable species preservation laws.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LEE SIMEL, M.D.

(Mr. MCINTYRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding doctor, loving father, and exceptional North Carolinian, Dr. David Lee Simel of Durham.

Dr. Simel was raised in Greensboro before attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After graduation, he completed medical school and an internal medicine residency at Duke University. He is now a professor of medicine and vice chair for veterans affairs at Duke. And he has dedicated himself wholly to our vet-

erans, serving them across our great State of North Carolina.

The influential book of which he was coauthor, “The Rational Clinical Exam,” is a comprehensive guide for patient exams and has become a powerful reference tool for those in the field of medicine.

Dr. Simel’s enduring commitment to his family, his students, his patients, and to our veterans make him an exemplary citizen. His passion for medicine and improving the health of others will continue to benefit our veterans and North Carolinians for years to come.

Indeed, we should honor those who serve our veterans and set an example, like Dr. Simel has done. And we also honor him for his intelligence, compassion, and selfless dedication. We pray that he and his family will receive God’s richest blessings, and we are thankful for role models like Dr. Simel, who serves those who served our country.

#### FARMINGTON: MINNESOTA’S FIRST YELLOW RIBBON CITY

(Mr. KLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Farmington’s commitment to our veterans and the community’s 5-year anniversary of being named Minnesota’s first Yellow Ribbon City.

When I first championed legislation to make the Minnesota National Guard’s invaluable Yellow Ribbon reintegration program available nationwide, one of the pillars of this initiative was to increase awareness among communities and local organizations to improve relationships between veterans and their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Farmington understand the important role a community plays in the successful reintegration of our troops returning home. Farmington built a model Yellow Ribbon organization centered around relationships with neighbors, veterans organizations, and local, State, and Federal leaders. Farmington rallied around the needs of area veterans and their families by hosting monthly dinners for veterans and holiday cookie walks. You can’t beat that.

As their Yellow Ribbon organization grew and their efforts expanded, they recognized success and shared those best practices with other inspired communities, leaving their Yellow Ribbon fingerprint across the great State of Minnesota.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today not simply to recognize Farmington on this 5-year anniversary, but to thank the entire community for being a Yellow Ribbon trailblazer and for demonstrating their continued commitment to our servicemembers, veterans, and their families. As the Farmington Yellow Ribbon honors our sons and daughters in uniform,